

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~In a marketplace, a~~ A computer-implemented method for processing clearing offers, ~~intended to be associated with other offers, the offers containing specifications indicating which specify~~ conditions for acceptance, and the method comprising:

receiving a plurality of improvable advantaged offers ~~capable of being associated with offers having more favorable specifications than initial offers associated with the improvable offers;~~

associating ~~initial offers with the improvable offers;~~ each advantaged offer with one or more available most-favorable disadvantaged offers, wherein the conditions of acceptance of each advantaged offer are met by each disadvantaged offer that has been associated with the advantaged offer; and

changing the association of at least one associated advantaged offer to a newly available disadvantaged offer that offers more favorable terms than a currently associated disadvantaged offer, when the newly available disadvantaged offer is received and meets the conditions of acceptance of the associated advantaged offer.

~~receiving a plurality of nonimprovable offers incapable of being associated with other offers after having been associated with initial offers;~~

~~determining which nonimprovable offers have more favorable specifications than initial offers associated with improvable offers; and~~

~~associating the determined ones of the nonimprovable offers with corresponding ones of the improvable offers.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~improvable and nonimprovable~~ advantaged and disadvantaged offers are each associated with a pool and a corresponding ~~having an associated~~ pool close event.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the specifications specified conditions for acceptance of the offers have attributes related to terms of acceptance of that offer, and

wherein determining which of the ~~nonimprovable~~ disadvantaged offers have more favorable specifications further comprises:

applying attributes of one of the ~~improvable~~ advantaged offers to a price function for one of the ~~nonimprovable~~ disadvantaged offers to calculate a price.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 3, wherein the calculated price includes all appropriate costs.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein determining which of the ~~nonimprovable~~ disadvantaged offers have more favorable specifications further comprises:

applying a weighting function to the calculated price.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein applying attributes of one of the ~~improvable~~ advantaged offers comprises:

using as the price function a table in which price ranges correspond to attributes of an ~~improvable~~ advantaged offer.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein applying attributes of one of the ~~improvable~~ advantaged offers comprises:

using as the price function a computer program capable of defining a price based on attributes of an ~~improvable~~ advantaged offer.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the specifications of conditions for acceptance of the offers include price specifications, and wherein determining which ~~nonimprovable~~ disadvantaged offers have more favorable specifications further comprises:

comparing price specifications.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 8, wherein the price specifications are constant prices, and

wherein comparing the price specifications comprises:

comparing constant prices.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~receiving a plurality of nonimprovable~~ associating each advantaged offer with one or more of the

most favorable available disadvantaged offers includes is performed:

~~receiving a first set of nonimprovable offers, and~~
~~receiving a second set of nonimprovable offers after the first set, wherein the~~
~~specifications of the first set of nonimprovable offers are less favorable than the~~
~~specifications of at least one of the second set of nonimprovable offers; and wherein the~~
~~method further includes:~~

~~associating the improvable offers with the first and second set of nonimprovable~~
~~offers, giving higher in order of priority to the ones of the improvable advantaged offers,~~
~~according to such priority being determined by the order in which the improvable~~
~~advantaged offers were received.~~

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 10, wherein the set of
available disadvantaged offers comprise ~~step of associating the improvable offers with~~
~~the first and second set of nonimprovable offers further comprises:~~

~~considering only the nonimprovable those disadvantaged offers that are not~~
already associated with other offers.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 10, wherein the
specifications of the conditions of acceptance of the improvable advantaged offers
further comprise:

a product specification, a quantity specification, a pool specification, and a
fragment list; and

wherein determining which ~~nonimprovable~~ disadvantaged offers have more favorable specifications includes:

examining the product specification, quantity specification, pool specification, and fragment list of the improvable offers.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 10, wherein the specifications of the ~~nonimprovable~~ conditions of acceptance of the disadvantaged offers further comprise:

a product specification, a quantity specification, a pool specification; and a fragment list; and

wherein determining which ~~nonimprovable~~ disadvantaged offers have more favorable specifications includes:

examining the product specification, quantity specification, pool specification, and fragment list of the ~~improvable~~ disadvantaged offers.

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 12, wherein the quantity specification further comprises a minimum quantity and a maximum quantity; and

wherein determining which ~~nonimprovable~~ disadvantaged offers have more favorable specifications includes:

examining the minimum and maximum quantities.

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein the quantity specification further comprises:

a minimum quantity and a maximum quantity; and

wherein determining which ~~nonimprovable~~ disadvantaged offers have more favorable specifications includes:

examining the minimum and maximum quantities.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for generating events to be posted to a marketplace, the method comprising:

receiving a description of transactions to be offered in the marketplace;

expanding the description of transactions to be offered in the marketplace into at least one offer, with specified conditions of acceptance; and

generating a set of post events based on the at least one offer in a manner to cause the transactions to be offered in a marketplace in which a marketplace method for processing offers ~~intended to be associated with other offers~~ is used, ~~the offers containing specifications indicating acceptable conditions for acceptance~~, and the marketplace method comprising:

receiving a plurality of ~~improvable~~ advantaged offers; ~~capable of being associated with offers having more favorable specifications than initial offers associated with the improvable offers~~;

~~associating initial offers with the improvable offers~~ each advantaged offer with one or more available most-favorable disadvantaged offers wherein, the conditions

of acceptance of each advantaged offer are met by each disadvantaged offer that has been associated with the advantaged offer; and

changing the association of an advantaged offer to a newly available disadvantaged offer that offers more favorable terms than a currently associated disadvantaged offer, when the newly available disadvantaged offer is received and meets the conditions of acceptance of the associated advantaged offer.[:]]

~~receiving a plurality of nonimprovable offers incapable of being associated with other offers after having been associated with initial offers;~~

~~determining which nonimprovable offers have more favorable specifications than initial offers associated with improvable offers; and~~

~~associating the determined ones of the nonimprovable offers with corresponding ones of the improvable offers.~~

17. (Original) A method according to claim 16, wherein the description of transactions is a stepped-price schedule having price breaks at each price step in the stepped-price schedule, and

wherein generating a set of post events includes:

generating an uninterruptible sequence of offers, each offer in the sequence corresponding to a price step in the stepped-price schedule, and each offer having a reserve price equal to the price break of the price step.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 16, wherein the description of transactions is an all-or-none specification having a minimum quantity, and

wherein generating a set of post events includes:

posting an offer with a minimum quantity specification
corresponding to the minimum quantity in the all-or-none specification.

19. (Original) A method according to claim 16, wherein the description of transactions is a fill-or-kill specification having a minimum quantity, and

wherein generating a set of post events includes:

posting an offer with a minimum quantity specification
corresponding to the minimum quantity in the fill-or-kill specification; and
withdrawing the offer if the minimum quantity specification cannot
be satisfied.

20. (Original) A method according to claim 16, wherein the description of transactions is a fill-and-withdraw specification having a desired quantity, and

wherein generating a set of post events includes:

posting an offer with a maximum quantity specification corresponding to
the desired quantity in the fill-and-withdraw specification; and
withdrawing any quantity of the offer not immediately filled.

21. (Original) A method according to claim 16, wherein the events include straddles specifying a straddle limit, which restricts the number of associations, and

wherein generating a set of post events further comprises:

creating an offer corresponding to one of the descriptions;

adding the created offer to any corresponding straddles; and
generating a straddle including the created the offer if no corresponding
straddles exist.

22. (Original) A method according to claim 21, further comprising the steps of:
monitoring the marketplace for new opportunities to post an offer corresponding
to offers in a posted straddle; and

adding an offer corresponding to the new opportunity to the posted straddle.

23. (Original) A method according to claim 16, wherein receiving a description
of offered transactions further includes:

providing a user interface to specify products in the offer.

24. (Original) A method according to claim 16, wherein generating a set of
post events further includes:

generating offers contingent on the occurrence of an event.